REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3, 5, 10 and 12 are requested to be cancelled.

Claim 1 is currently being amended.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13 and 14 are now pending in this application.

Claims 3, 5, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,182,119 to Chu (hereinafter "Chu"). As to canceled claims 3, 5, 10 and 12, the rejection is moot. As to pending claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13 and 14, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention relates to methods and systems for filtering messages. The disclosed embodiments provide for conversion of text-based filter strings, such as Boolean expressions, directly to machine-language code. The text-based filter strings may be received from a variety of sources and may include any number of expressions. Thus, the range of filtering requirements may be very broad. By providing for direct conversion of text-based filter strings to machine-language filter code, the present invention eliminates any intermediate steps

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of interpreting the filter string representation to execute an appropriate machine-language code. Further, the present invention does not require storage of pre-configured filter modules, thereby providing greater flexibility and accommodating a greater range of filtering requirements. In this regard, the invention incorporates a machine-language code generator for directly converting the text-based filter string to machine-language code. Accordingly, amended claim 1 recites "converting the text-based string directly to machine language filter code once using a machine-language generator". Further, as recited in claims 1 and 8, the machine-language generator is "configured to convert the text-based filter string directly to machine-language filter code."

In contrast, Chu discloses a system of filtering which requires accessing a set of source modules. The dynamic configuration of the filters is achieved by adding the necessary modules at run time. However, Chu fails to teach or suggest direct conversion of text-based filter string to machine-language filter code. The excerpts of Chu cited by the Examiner relating to this aspect of the present invention include only a general description of handling of Java-based components. In particular, at col. 9, lines 15-45, Chu discloses using a Java compiler to generate class files from source code and loading the class files using a Java class loader. No teaching or suggestion is made to convert text-based <u>filter strings</u> to machine-language <u>filter code</u>. Rather, Chu discloses handling of filter strings in a completely different manner using pre-configured modules. Accordingly, Chu does not anticipate claims 1 and 8.

Thus, claims 1 and 8 are patentable. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1, and claims 9, 11, 13 and 14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 8. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 are, therefore, patentable for at least that reason, as well as for additional patentable features when those claims are considered as a whole.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 7-28-04   By _____

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